



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Healthy People Healthy Communities

S.C. House Legislative Oversight Committee
COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Overview
Jan. 21, 2021

Agency Attendees

- **W. Marshall Taylor** - Acting Director
- **Brannon Traxler, MD** - Interim Public Health Director
- **Linda Bell, MD** - State Epidemiologist
- **Stephen White, MPH** - Immunizations Division Director

Agenda

- **Process Overview**
- **Strategy and Implementation**
- **The Pipeline and Challenges**
- **Next Steps**

Vaccine Task Force

DHEC, EMD, SCHA and the National Guard partnered to stand up the Vaccine Task Force.

Focused on addressing immediate needs:

- Operations/Plans
- Communications
- Logistics
- Financials

S.C. Vaccine Advisory Committee (VAC)

- **CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)** provides guidance on phases
- The **VAC** applies that guidance to South Carolina and provides recommendations to DHEC
 - **~2 dozen members** from organizations and entities that represent South Carolina's diverse population
 - Meetings are open to the public (scdhec.gov/vac)

GOAL: To save lives.

Phases and Populations

Phase 1a *(Estimated: 987,039)*

- **LTCF residents and staff**
- **Healthcare personnel**
- **Admitted patients at hospitals**, who are aged 65+
- Anyone **70+**

Phase 1b *(Estimated population: 573,501)*

- **Frontline essential workers**

** Population estimates for phase planning may include duplications due to individuals being in multiple populations.*

Phases and Populations (Cont.)

Phase 1c *(Estimated: 2,897,527)*

- All people aged **65 to 69** years old
- People aged **16 to 64 years** with certain underlying health conditions
- Other **essential workers**

Phase 2 *(Estimated: 690,648)*

- **ALL people** who wish to be vaccinated
- Ages per recommendations by ACIP

** Population estimates for phase planning may include duplications due to individuals being in multiple populations.*

Strategy

- **Build a network of providers across the state**
 - **S.C.'s Vaccine Pipeline:** pharmacies, private physicians, health departments, mobile clinics, FQHCs, etc.
- **Direct ship vaccine to:**
 - Providers
 - DHEC and redistribute in smaller quantities
- **Initial rollout of Phase 1a:**
 - Population limited to hospital staff and LTCFs
- **Providers to use federal VAMS system for:**
 - Inventory
 - Appointments

The Pipeline Provider Network

- **287 activated provider sites** that can receive and administer vaccines
- **969 approved provider sites** that are waiting to be activated as soon as more vaccine is available
- **790 organizations signed up** to provide vaccines
 - Large chains like CVS/Walgreens have multiple sites
 - Others are independent (help to reach rural communities)
- **FQHCs** began vaccinating this week

Expanding Who Can Vaccinate

Joint Order with LLR

- **Unlicensed personnel with current certifications** by certain certifying boards (e.g., Medical Assistants)
- **Students of an accredited medical school** with appropriate instruction and documented training
- **Registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, physicians, and physician assistants** who have:
 - Retired
 - Become inactive
 - Whose licenses lapsed within the **last 5 years** but were in good standing
- **Dentists** who may administer vaccines at dedicated sites

S.C. Vaccine Pipeline

Larger and Growing

The state's vaccine pipeline is growing. But the supply is not currently sufficient to meet the growing demand.

- **Pfizer Vaccine**

- Avg. of **32,700** per week for the last 4 weeks

- **Moderna Vaccine**

- Avg. of **30,200** per week for the last 4 weeks

No changes anticipated for the foreseeable future.

COVID-19 VACCINE FLOW IN SC

This graphic shows the progression of the vaccine from the federal government to the state and the steps along the way from providers to vaccine recipients.¹



Suppliers started shipping Dec. 13, 2020 (ships weekly)

PROVIDERS	VACCINE ARRIVAL
Acute Care Hospitals	Dec. 14, 2020
CVS/Walgreens (LTCF) ³	Dec. 28, 2020
Non-Acute Care Hospitals	Jan. 4, 2021
Limited Pharmacies	Jan. 18, 2021
Limited Private Physicians	Jan. 11, 2021
Limited Urgent Care	Jan. 11, 2021
Limited DHEC Sites	Jan. 11, 2021

PHASE 1 IN SC STARTS

Vaccine first received Dec. 14, 2020

PHASE 1A (CURRENTLY ONGOING – FEBRUARY 2021):

- Healthcare workers
 - › Includes home health and hospice workers, dentists and dental hygienists/assistants, pharmacists, and more.
- LTCF residents and staff
- Admitted hospital patients, aged 65+
- 70+ with or without underlying health conditions
- COVID-19 vaccine/testing mission-critical state/local government employees

See more detailed listing of Phase 1a at scdhec.gov/vaxfacts
Estimated population: 987,039⁴

PHASE 1B (EARLY SPRING):²

- Frontline essential workers
 - › Includes law enforcement officers, corrections officers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers teachers, daycare workers, and more.

See more detailed listing of Phase 1b at scdhec.gov/vaxfacts
Estimated population: 573,501⁴

PHASE 1C (LATE SPRING):²

- All people aged 65 and older
- 16–64 years old with certain underlying health conditions
- Other essential workers
 - › Includes transportation and logistics, food service, public safety, non-frontline healthcare workers, and more.

See more detailed listing of Phase 1c at scdhec.gov/vaxfacts
Estimated population: 2,897,527⁴

PHASE 2

PHASE 2 (SUMMER – FALL):²

- All people who wish to be vaccinated
 - Widespread availability
- Estimated population: 690,648⁴

THE COVID-19 VACCINE

FOOTNOTES:

1. All phase groups are subject to change based on CDC/ACIP/VAC recommendations
2. All estimates subject to change due to vaccine availability, demand, and provider participation.
3. Vaccine allocated to Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF)
4. Sources: SC Department of Commerce and DOD Tiberius Planning Tool

Logistics

The COVID-19 vaccines are direct shipped to providers.

Pfizer Vaccine

- Ultra-cold storage (-70°C) is a logistical challenge
- Stable at **refrigerator temp for 5 days** and **room temp for 6 hours**
- Pfizer vaccines are shipped to hospitals and a few other providers directly or via DHEC's redistribution center; Comes in trays of **975 doses**

Moderna vaccine

- Can be stored in standard vaccine freezers (-20°C)
- Stable at **refrigerator temp for 30 days** and at **room temp for 12 hours**
- First shipments to Walgreens/CVS through Federal LTC Program
- Shipments now going to pharmacies, large medical practices, FQHCs, DHEC clinics, etc.; and starting this week Rural Health Centers; Comes in trays of **100 doses**

Rollout

In December, CDC made changes which increased the Phase 1a Population

- Unexpected **expansion of Phase 1a population** from **~184,000 to ~353,000**
- Notified of change **week before** vaccine delivered
- Expanded to all healthcare workers outside the hospital walls
 - *Also – dentists, environmental and food service staff in healthcare settings, funeral home directors, etc.*

Accelerating Vaccine Administration

To speed up the number of South Carolinians able to receive the COVID-19 vaccines:

- Hospitals reached out to Phase 1a employers and individuals
- DHEC worked with LLR to send emails to all qualifying professionals
- Set a deadline: Phase 1a individuals or their employers to schedule appointments by Jan. 15, 2021
- Large providers urged the state to expand Phase 1a
- Expanded Phase 1a to those 70+ on Jan. 13, 2021

Deficiencies in Federal VAMS System

- Every person must have an email and be inputted into system
- Doesn't distinguish between first and second dose appointments
- Glitches resulting in spontaneous appt. cancellations
- Labor intensive data entry for providers
- Second dose ordering process not clear

Statewide Appointment System

Coming Soon

- One-stop shop, easier to navigate
- Call center available to help those who need assistance
- Easily schedule first and second dose appointments
- Will still use VAMS for ordering and inventory
- Ability to integrate with SIMON in the future

Current State

As of Jan. 20, 2021, 337,575 total doses of vaccine have been received.

- **Pfizer Vaccine Allocation**

- Hospitals and a few other providers
 - **273,975** received (69,225 received Monday)
 - **173,560** administered
 - **85%** utilization rate as of Monday a.m.

- **Moderna State Vaccine Allocation**

- Outside of LTCFs
 - **63,600** received (32,100 received Monday)
 - **12,552** administered
 - **40%** utilization rate as of Monday a.m.

Federal LTC Program

101,700 1st doses allocated

465 facilities completed clinics to receive 1st dose

29,183 1st doses administered

28.7% utilization rate

Supply vs. Demand

- **Up until last week South Carolina had enough vaccines**
 - Hospitals ordered **4 to 5 times more** doses
 - Could only fulfill **20-25% of each hospital's first-dose order** of Pfizer
 - All orders for second doses were able to be fulfilled
- **Equitable allocation going forward**
 - **Baseline:** Week of Feb. 1, 2021
 - Providers should:
 - Not stockpile doses
 - Be clear on the total number of doses needed

Next Steps: Phases 1b & 1c

- **65 to 69**

35,660 estimated population

- **16 to 64 with underlying health conditions**

1,612,296 estimated population

- **Schools (teachers & support staff)**

196,902 estimated population

- School nurses in conjunction with local providers

- **Essential Workers**

- Issued guidance to businesses and government

Next Steps: Phase 2

All Providers on Deck and Mass Vaccination Events

Pilot at State Fair Ground (Jan. 15, 2021)

- Lesson's learned:
 - MUST have appointments until vaccine plentiful
 - Prepared to handle “walk-ups” or plan for those without an appointment
 - Ensure you have adequate restroom facilities, not only for those staffing the clinic, but more importantly for those in line
 - If it's a drive-thru event, have a logistical plan for traffic control

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